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# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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67th YEAR

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WEATHER  
PAGE 11

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## HINDENBURG LINE FAILS TO PUT END TO ALLIED DRIVE

Entente Forces Gain on  
Both Sides of Somme  
and Oise Rivers.

FRENCH CAPTURE ADVANCE  
FORTS OF LA FERRE DEFENSE

Fighting Is Most Desperate, Ger-  
mans Giving Ground Only  
Foot by Foot.

ROISEL IS WON BY BRITISH

Activity Resumed on Roumanian  
Frontier Between Solyntar  
and Czobanos Valleys.

Notwithstanding stiffened resistance  
by the Germans before the Hindenburg  
line, British and French troops con-  
tinue to make progress on both sides  
of the Somme and Oise Rivers, in France.

The west bank of the Oise, from La  
Fere northward to Vandeuil, a distance  
of about four miles, has been occu-  
pied by the French troops, who also  
captured two of the advance  
forts in the defensive system of La  
Fere, supposed to be one of the Ger-  
man strong points.

North of the Somme the Germans  
have been forced back to Savy, four  
miles west of St. Quentin. The fighting  
on the west bank of the Oise, ac-  
cording to the French official state-  
ment, was of the most desperate char-  
acter, the Germans giving ground only  
foot by foot and defending themselves  
tenaciously.

In the face of the German attempts  
to check the French progress south of  
the Hindenburg line, the British and  
French have advanced on the east bank  
of the Ailette River, capturing several  
villages and forcing the Germans to  
retreat.

BRITISH ALSO ADVANCE

SOUTHEAST OF ARRAS

Roisel, seven miles east of Peronne,  
and a railway junction point on the  
line between Maroing and St. Quentin,  
has been captured by the British. At  
Bicquettz-les-Cambrai, near the center  
of the British line on the Somme front,  
the Germans attacked and gained a  
temporary footing in the village, but  
later were ejected. A British advance  
southwest and west of Roisel-St.  
Mein, southeast of Arras, on a front  
of one and a half miles, also is re-  
ported by London.

Activity has been resumed on the  
Roumanian frontier, where German  
troops have stormed the Russian pos-  
sitions between the Solyntar and  
Czobanos Valleys, and have taken 500  
prisoners. Between the Silcha and  
Chavich Rivers the Russians have  
withdrawn about two-thirds of a mile  
under German pressure. The fighting  
between Lakes Ochrida and Presba, on  
the Macedonian front near Monastir,  
is reported to be of for the present,  
with the Teutonic forces still in pos-  
session of the dominating heights in  
the district north and west of the  
Monastir Basin, which is said to have  
been the object of the French attacks.

The advance of Russian troops to-  
ward the Mesopotamian border con-  
tinues, and the capture of the Persian  
town of Kerind, forty miles from the  
border, was announced on Saturday.

General Letichitzy, who was in com-  
mand of the southern wing of the Russian  
armies in General Brusiloff's of-  
fensive last summer, is back in com-  
mand of the Russian armies on the  
central front, succeeding General  
Alexei E. Evert.

TWO OF ADVANCE FORTS

IN LA FERRE DEFENSE WON

[By Associated Press.]

PARIS, March 24.—Two of the ad-  
vance forts in the defensive system of  
La Fere, a strong point on the Hinden-  
burg line, have been captured by the  
French, who have also occupied the  
west bank of the River Oise from the  
outskirts of La Fere as far north as  
Vandeuil, a distance of about four  
miles.

The new French success is chronicled  
in the official report issued by the War  
Office to-night, which adds that sev-  
eral villages on the east bank of the  
Ailette River have also been taken,  
the German rear guards being driven  
back.

The statement reads:

"North of the Somme we have forced  
back the enemy to the outskirts of  
Savy, where he had established him-  
self in a line of trenches prepared in  
advance from the Somme to the Oise.

"Our troops, continuing their suc-  
cess, gave battle to the enemy, who  
defended himself foot by foot, and  
pushed him about one kilometer north  
of Grand Seraucourt and Gibeourt, oc-  
cupying the west bank of the Oise  
from the outskirts of La Fere as far  
north as Vandeuil. Two advance forts  
of the defensive system of La Fere  
fell into our hands.

"South of the Oise, in spite of the  
inundations effected by the enemy, we  
made important progress on the east  
bank of the Ailette, regaining several  
villages and compelling the German  
rear guards to retire.

"In the lower section of the forest  
of Coucy, north of Soissons, there is  
little change. We found numerous  
Germans dead in the trenches taken  
by us yesterday north of Margival.

"A German long-range gun about 12  
o'clock to-day fired a number of shells  
of heavy caliber on the town of Sois-  
sons.

"Artillery fighting has been quite  
marked in the regions of Remy-au-Bac  
and Rhelm, as well as in Aisne, in  
(Continued on Second Page.)

## Resolutions Adopted for Universal Training

Resolutions were unanimously  
adopted by the patriotic mass-meet-  
ing at the City Auditorium last  
night as follows:

Believing that American insti-  
tutions of liberty, peace and free  
government can only be rendered  
safe through the co-operative ser-  
vice of every citizen, and believing  
that such service is at once a na-  
tional duty and national privilege,  
this mass-meeting of the citizens  
of Richmond hereby records itself  
in favor of the national training  
for all branches of defensive ser-  
vice of all adult males capable of  
bearing arms, without exemption  
for any class.

## SAYS STATE LABOR CODE IS DEFIED BY COURTS

Has Become 'Ghastly Corpse' in Many  
Jurisdictions, According  
to Doherty.

RECEIVES LITTLE ASSISTANCE

State Labor Commissioner Recites  
Ingenious Devices Adopted by  
Courts to Afford Loopholes  
Through Which Guilty May Escape.

Virginia labor laws, passed in good  
faith by the General Assembly, are  
being sweepingly ignored by the petty  
courts of the Commonwealth, accord-  
ing to Labor Commissioner J. B. Doherty,  
who, in a sharp statement issued yester-  
day, declares that his department  
has found it practically impossible to  
secure convictions where the legal  
lights of the localities are called upon  
to preside over cases in which persons  
with political influence are defendants.

In a single Virginia city recently  
more than a score of defendants were  
found guilty of labor law violations  
as charged by agents of the Labor  
Bureau, only to have their fines sus-  
pended by the court. Similar experi-  
ences in many sections of the State have  
forced Commissioner Doherty to the  
conclusion that many of the minor  
courts of the State are effectively set-  
ting at naught the laws passed by the  
General Assembly against the exploit-  
ing of defenseless labor.

NO DECISION ANNOUNCED

TWO YEARS AFTER TRIAL

In one court, declares Commissioner  
Doherty, four firms were confronted  
with uncontroverted evidence that they  
had violated the child labor laws. The  
court announced that it would make  
known its decision in a few days. Two  
years later, the court has not yet made  
known its decision.

"The old legal term, over and  
terminer, meaning to hear and deter-  
mine," observed Mr. Doherty, "could  
hardly be applied to this court."

Speaking yesterday of the extra-  
ordinary difficulties that beset his de-  
partment in enforcing the labor laws,  
Commissioner Doherty said:  
"When the passage of labor laws by  
the Legislature is sought by the work-  
ing classes, they are met with the ac-  
tive opposition of powerful lobbies re-  
tained by the employing classes, and  
by the misguided, though often honest,  
hostility of conservative members.

After the statute is enacted and pub-  
lished by authority as part of the law  
of the land, the constabulary, duly  
constituted and charged with the duty  
of enforcing all the laws, calmly ignore  
those made for the benefit of the  
toilers. It consequently becomes  
necessary to create new offices and  
fill them with friends of the working  
class, specially charged with the  
task of enforcing these laws.

OPEN HOSTILITY TO POLICY OF THE LAW

"But the third difficulty is the most  
unreasoning of all—the need of the  
courts, their failure to act and, some-  
times, their hostility to the policy of  
the law. It is this third difficulty  
which is giving us now the greatest  
concern.

"To avoid the charge of disrespect  
for the judicial eminence, it may be well  
to cite a few concrete examples of the  
decisions of some courts in cases in-  
volving infringement of the labor laws.

"A prosecution was brought against  
a firm for violation of the semi-monthly  
pay law. Proof was offered that op-  
eratives in the machine shop, black-  
smith shop, cooper shop and carpenter  
shop were not paid oftener than once  
a month, and the evidence was not  
denied by the defendant company. The  
court decided that the whole plant  
was a sawmill and, therefore, came  
within the exempting clause of the  
law.

"In a case under the child-labor law  
where the justice had found the de-  
fendant guilty of working a child nine  
years old, upon an appeal to a superi-  
or court and submission to a jury,  
the facts being plain and admitted, the  
jury found the defendant not guilty.

"For a violation of the law requiring  
seats for female employees, where the  
defendant pleaded guilty, the court de-  
cided that the Commissioner of Labor  
should have designated the kind of  
seats, and so found the defendant not  
guilty.

NOT GUILTY BECAUSE

IGNORANT OF THE LAW

"Another charged with a breach of  
the child-labor law pleaded guilty, but  
that he was ignorant of the law. The  
court held that the defendant had now  
heard the law discussed and would be  
familiar with it in the future, and  
therefore, the defendant was found not  
guilty.

"Under the same law, the manager  
of a firm entered a formal plea of  
guilty, but that he was ignorant of  
the law. The court held that, as he  
had been manager only six months and

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

STOPS TOBACCO HABIT

Elder's Sanitarium, located at 554 Main  
Street, St. Joseph, Mo., has published a  
booklet, and how it can be stopped in three  
to five days at home.

As they are distributing this book free,  
any one wanting a copy should send their  
name and address at once—Adv.

## WAR SURE TO COME WITHIN TWO WEEKS

Montague Expects Declaration  
Shortly After Congress  
Meets on April 2.

CAN FIGHT WHILE PREPARING

Governor Hopes to See American  
Flag on French and  
Belgian Soil.

"Aye" was the response which came  
with deafening unanimity from the  
1,600 people in the City Auditorium  
last night when Congressman A. J.  
Montague, presiding, put the motion  
offered by John Stewart Bryan in  
favor of universal military service at  
the patriotic mass-meeting held under  
the auspices of the Capital City Divi-  
sion of the Virginia Branch of the  
National League for Women's Service.  
Governor Stuart, Congressman Mon-  
tague and John Stewart Bryan all  
agreed in their addresses that the  
United States would be at war within  
a few weeks. At each reference to  
America's entry in the conflict or to  
the gallant fighting of the entente  
allies, the speakers were interrupted  
with enthusiastic applause, in which  
joined the entire audience, from the  
young people of the chorus and the  
distinguished citizens on the platform  
to the Confederate veterans and hardy  
militiamen in the front seats and the  
massed men and women in the rear  
and the balcony.

Flags and red, white and blue bunting  
decorated the auditorium. Directly  
behind the speakers was hung a great  
American flag, joined with the flags  
of the State of Virginia and the city  
of Richmond. Boys of the Rindorf  
Junior High School Cadet Company  
sang small flags to the multitude.

STUART WELCOMES RETURNING

SOLDIERS TO NEW DUTIES

"The Star-Spangled Banner," "Ameri-  
ca," "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean"  
and "Dixie" led by the John Marshall  
High School chorus, directed by Pro-  
fessor Walter C. Mercer, and the How-  
litzers' Band, brought the people again  
and again to their feet with waving  
flags, beating time to the music, and  
singing heartily to the words.

"We hardly know in this uncertain  
and doubtful time whether most  
to welcome those young soldiers re-  
turning from service on the border  
or to beckon them to the action await-  
ing them on wider fields," said Gov-  
ernor Stuart. "Be this as it may, I  
wish to express to the State and peo-  
ple of Virginia the pride and satisfac-  
tion in the splendid record of our boys  
in every call that has been made upon  
them. You come not, soldiers, with a  
record of battle fought or won, the  
laurels of victory won, but with the  
pride and satisfaction of duty done and  
with a splendid purpose for the de-  
fense of the State. The example of this  
splendid body of young soldiers is of  
infinite value to the whole country.

"We heard from the distinguished  
speaker in this hall a few nights ago  
the chief objection to voluntary ser-  
vice was that the flower of the na-  
tion poured out its blood at the be-  
ginning of a struggle, while the leg-  
ions remained in safety. Voluntary  
service is the nucleus, however, around  
which an army of defense will have to  
be rallied when the time comes.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS

OPEN, AGGRESSIVE WAR

"Look to the future when such a  
time may come. I believe such will  
all bridges have been burned behind  
on the question of honor and peace,  
but one thing remains, and that is  
open, aggressive, determined, per-  
sistent war. Then throw off all ties  
of neutrality. Let the war continue  
until the terms laid down by the great  
Virginian now in the White House  
have been met. I have full confidence  
in his wisdom and statesmanship to  
guide the country through the crises  
which now present themselves.

"Some say the United States is not  
prepared for war. We must admit  
that there is a large element of  
truth in what they say, but the United  
States is getting better prepared every  
day. And the nation can fight while it  
is preparing. I believe that the United  
States is in better shape to fight than  
to allow one idiot to be put upon its  
honor.

"The time has come, in my opinion,  
when the country must choose where  
it will stand. It must decide whether  
it will limit the war to the action of  
the navy in keeping the sea lanes clear  
for commerce and fight with dollars  
instead of bullets. The only safe and  
honorable course is for the United  
States to take the side of her natural  
allies fighting in Europe.

WOULD SEE STARS AND STRIPES

ON BATTLE FIELDS OF FRANCE

"I hope and trust the time may not  
come to send troops for land fighting  
across the ocean. But if the war con-  
tinues, if there is no sign of an early  
peace, let us cast our lot and parcel  
with the allies, even if we send  
but a small number of troops to show  
our identification with a brave cause.  
Even now, the French troops, grapp-  
ling with the Germans, are singing  
out the immortal words uttered in St.  
John's Church, Richmond, 'Give me li-  
berty or give me death.' If the war is  
to continue on the battle field by Ameri-  
cans, I want to see the Union Jack,  
the Tricolor and the Stars and Stripes  
floating side by side. I want to listen  
to the national anthem of Great Brit-  
ain, the 'Marseillaise,' and the 'Star-  
Spangled Banner' commingling in a  
common tone just as the men who will  
sing will be interested in a common  
cause.

"When all efforts at peace are ex-

(Continued on Fourteenth Page.)

Waited weeks for parts from distant au-  
tomobile factories, says correspondent in  
Richmond Motor. Twenty-two hundred  
cars, too, Preparedness means the Rich-  
mond-made line car.

## PRESENT REGIME IN CUBA UPHELD

United States Sends Unmistak-  
able Declaration of Position  
Through Gonzales.

CONDEMNNS ACTS OF REBELS

Will Be Forced to Regard Them  
as Outside of Law and Un-  
worthy of Consideration.

[By Associated Press.]

HAVANA, March 24.—A note from  
the American government to the Cuban  
government, reiterating the purpose of  
the United States to support the Cuban  
government in its efforts to re-estab-  
lish order, and condemning the conduct  
of the rebels, was delivered to-day by  
William E. Gonzales, the American  
minister. The note follows:

"All declarations of the United  
States government regarding the ill-  
conceived conflict in Cuba from the be-  
ginning have been clear and concise.  
There has been no occasion whatever  
for misunderstanding, and nothing in-  
dicating that the United States could  
be forced into action which it has de-  
clared its intention not to adopt, but  
to remove all pretext of erroneous in-  
terpretations and reaffirm the con-  
demnation of the revolt by the United  
States government and its support of  
the constitutional government of Cuba,  
the United States government makes  
the following unmistakable declaration:  
REITERATES ESSENTIAL  
PORTIONS OF DECLARATION

"It has come to the knowledge of the  
United States government that in Cuba  
propaganda persists that in re-  
sponse to efforts of agents against the  
constitutional government the United  
States is studying the adoption of  
measures in their favor. The United  
States government cannot understand  
how its policy could be misunderstood  
regarding the situation existing in  
Cuba. To avoid continuation of mis-  
understandings and misinterpretations  
of the declarations made by the United  
States government which have been  
published throughout the Cuban re-  
public, which defined the policy of the  
United States in Cuba in unmistakable  
terms, it is desirable to reiterate the  
essential points of those declarations,  
to wit:

"First, The constitutional govern-  
ment of Cuba has been, and will con-  
tinue to be, sustained and backed by  
the government of the United States  
in its efforts to re-establish order  
throughout the territory of the re-  
public.

"Second, The United States govern-  
ment, emphasizing its condemnation of  
the reprehensible conduct of those  
rising against the constitutional gov-  
ernment in an effort to settle by force  
of arms controversies for which exist-  
ing laws establish adequate legal  
remedies, desires to make known that  
until those in rebellion recognize their  
duties as Cuban citizens, lay down  
their arms and return to legality, the  
United States can hold no communica-  
tion whatever with any of them, and  
will be forced to regard them as out-  
side the law and unworthy of its con-  
sideration."

EXPECTED TO DISSIPATE

SOME OF RESENTMENT

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The new  
American communication to Cuba, cal-  
culated to give further moral support  
to the Menocal government, is expected  
here to dissipate to a great extent the  
resentment aroused in some quarters  
over the landing of American marines  
and bluejackets to aid in protecting  
property and life from the rebels.

The note follows a visit here by Dr.  
Desvergne, the Cuban Secretary of  
State, who is understood to have told  
State Department officials that some  
factions in the island republic regarded  
the landing of the American forces as  
obnoxious interference.

It is believed here that the back-  
bone of the rebellion has been broken,  
but much remains to be done, and the  
United States is anxious to take any  
further steps it can to show how  
squarely it stands behind the Menocal  
government. Conditions in the eastern  
end of the island, however, are re-  
garded here as not at all promising.

CERTAIN UNITS HAVE

ALREADY BEEN CALLED

Individual State Governors, such as  
Governor Harrington, of Maryland;  
Governor Whitman, of New York, and  
Governor McCall, of Massachusetts,  
have called on certain units of their  
militia for special police duty. Other  
Governors are about to do the same  
thing.

This action in no sense will interfere  
with the plans of the War Department.  
Once the President orders the militia  
of a State to take the field, this force  
immediately passes under his command.  
State authorities no longer have au-  
thority over the troops. All this is  
portation and shipping interests in that  
territory; also the provision of guards  
for any internment camps and to po-  
lice all government property, includ-  
ing arsenals, storehouses, public build-  
ings and Federal reservations.

Should a Mexican patrol then be  
found necessary, the Southern and  
Western forces would be held in re-  
serve for that duty. They would not  
be needed, under that arrangement,  
until the regulars were withdrawn  
from the border.

There is said to be a serious ques-  
tion in the minds of administration  
officials as to the advisability of call-  
ing on the entire militia at one time.  
It is being argued on the one hand  
that the organization of the Eastern  
and Middle Western States might be  
ordered to mobilize first, and, if it  
should be found later that the services  
of the remainder of the State troops  
are required, they, in turn, could be  
called to the colors.

The Eastern and Middle Western  
organizations, it is said, would be suf-  
ficient to protect all industrial, trans-  
portation and shipping interests in that  
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ings and Federal reservations.

## PREPARING PLANS FOR VIGOROUS WAR

Planning to Guard Danger Spots  
in United States From Attack

WASHINGTON, March 24.—In con-  
nection with energetic preparations  
for war now in progress, the pro-  
tection of vital points in the United  
States itself was the big question  
to-night before a large part of the  
administration machinery.

The War Department, the Navy  
Department, Department of Justice  
and the Secret Service in the Treas-  
ury Department were hard at work  
making plans for the guarding of  
the danger spots of the country in  
the event of a declaration of war.

The Secret Service and the agents  
of the Department of Justice were  
ready with lists of "suspects" and  
"spies" who will be arrested and  
imprisoned immediately upon the out-  
break of hostilities. The War De-  
partment and the Navy Department  
redoubled their vigilance in provid-  
ing ample protection for arsenals,  
navy-yards and other army and  
navy posts.

In this connection the Governors  
of the various States will be called  
on to furnish protection, with their  
militia, for the important cities of  
the country, their water supply and  
important bridges and roads. Gov-  
ernor McCall, of Massachusetts, con-  
ferred at length with Secretary of  
War Baker to-day on this point, and  
following the conference it was an-  
nounced that two regiments of the  
Massachusetts National Guard would  
be ordered on duty to protect the  
government arsenals, the Fore River  
shipyard, and other strategic  
points in the State.

## OFFICIALS LAY PLANS TO CALL STATE TROOPS

National Guard Will Be Expected to  
Police the Nation and Pa-  
trol Its Borders.

REGULARS MAY GO TO FRANCE

War Department Awaits Word From  
President Wilson to Summon All  
Militia to Colors for War Duty in  
This Country.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Officials  
of the War Department have made  
plans for calling out the entire Na-  
tional Guard of the United States, and  
now are awaiting the word from Presi-  
dent Wilson to summon the State  
troops to the colors.

The President, on his part, has de-  
cided, it is stated, to call out the guard,  
but is undecided whether to do it im-  
mediately or to wait until Congress  
has pronounced this country at war  
with Germany. The chances favor his  
waiting until Congress has acted.

It was indicated in official quarters  
to-day that the guard would be re-  
quired to perform one of two services,  
and possibly both. It will be expected,  
first, to call out to perform police duty  
in guarding all government property, all  
plants or shipyards engaged in work  
for the government or for the allies,  
all transportation facilities which might  
be exposed to attack and to quell any  
local disturbances.

In the next place, the guard may  
again be sent to the border to relieve  
the regular forces for possible service  
in France. The War College has pre-  
sented plans for the dispatch of an  
army to Europe, but it has not yet been  
determined by the President whether  
such an expeditionary force as the  
country is able to furnish should be  
sent abroad.

CERTAIN UNITS HAVE

ALREADY BEEN CALLED

Individual State Governors, such as  
Governor Harrington, of Maryland;  
Governor Whitman, of New York, and  
Governor McCall, of Massachusetts,  
have called on certain units of their  
militia for special police duty. Other  
Governors are about to do the same  
thing.

This action in no sense will interfere  
with the plans of the War Department.  
Once the President orders the militia  
of a State to take the field, this force  
immediately passes under his command.  
State authorities no longer have au-  
thority over the troops. All this is  
portation and shipping interests in that  
territory; also the provision of guards  
for any internment camps and to po-  
lice all government property, includ-  
ing arsenals, storehouses, public build-  
ings and Federal reservations.